

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 SY-05 /062 W
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R 060530Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8025
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0693

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC CGEN LA FR
SUBJECT: BREUER RETURNS TO LPDR DESPITE THREATENED ARREST AND ANOTHER
FRENCH CITIZEN IS ARRESTED.

REF VIENTIANE 0670

1. WADE BREUER, WHO LEFT LPDR MARCH 31 WITHOUT A
PROPER LPDR EXIT VISA BECAUSE HE FEARED ARREST, AS
REPORTED REFTEL, RETURNED APRIL 2 WITHOUT A PROPER RE-
ENTRY VISA. PRIVATE U.S. CITIZEN BREUER TOLD EMBOFF
APRIL 5 THAT HE WAS ABLE TO "SWEET TALK" THE LAO
SOLDIERS AT THE CUSTOMS DESK IN THADEUA INTO LETTING
HIM RETURN. EMBASSY ONCE AGAIN ADVISED BREUER TO
CONSIDER LEAVING THE COUNTRY FOR GOOD.

2. FRENCH CONSUL ALAIN DESCRIERS TOLD EMBOFF THAT A
FRENCH CITIZEN, JACQUES BARTZELLI, WAS ARRESTED MARCH
30 AND WAS UNOFFICIALLY CHARGED WITH ENTERTAINING
GIRLS IN HIS APARTMENT. NO OFFICIAL CHARGE HAS BEEN
MADE AND DESCRIERS HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED CONSULAR
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ACCESS TO VISIT PRISONER HELD IN THAT DAM JAIL.
DESCRIERES FELT BARTZELLI'S ARREST MAY BE PART OF LPDR
EFFORTS TO ROUND UP WESTERNERS WITH NO OFFICIAL
CONNECTION IN LAOS.

3. FRENCH CONSUL HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LAO WOULD
QUICKLY AND QUIETLY RELEASE BARTZELLI BEFORE THE

FRENCH GOVERNMENT "ELEVATED THE DIGNITY OF HIS BAD APPLIE" BY SENDING DIPLOMATIC NOTES PROTESTING HIS ARREST. DESCRIERS SAID, "WE HAVE IT FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES THAT BARTZELLI APPROACHED SEVERAL EASTERN BLOC EMBASSIES WITH AN OFFER TO SELL INFORMATION." DESCRIERES ADDED THAT BARTZELLI FIRST CAME TO LAOS AS A TEACHER IN 1972 BUT LOST HIS JOB BECAUSE OF INCOMPETENCE. SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN MAKING A LIVING DEALING ILLEGALLY ON THE BLACK MARKET IN ANTIQUES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE. DESCRIERES SAID THAT AT ONE POINT THE INDIAN EMBASSY SENT THE FRENCH A LETTER OF PROTEST BECAUSE BARTZELLI PASSED A BAD CHECK WORTH ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO A LOCAL INDIAN MERCHANT TO BUY BLACK MARKET KIP.

4. ACCORDING TO DESCRIERES ONLY TWO OTHER FRENCH CITIZENS ARE PRESENTLY UNDER LPDR DETENTION AND BOTH ARE DUAL NATIONALS. AFTER OBTAINING THE PROPER PAPERS, DESCRIERES WENT TO SAM KHE PRISON APRIL 5 TO VISIT THE FRENCH CITIZEN AND EMBASSY DRIVER ARRESTED NOVEMBER 1976. ONLY AFTER HE WAS PERMITTED WITHIN THE PRISON WALLS, SEARCHED THOROUGHLY BY GUARDS, AND TOLD HE COULD NOT SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE PRISONER IN FRENCH BUT ONLY THROUGH HIS ASSISTANT IN LAO WAS DESCRIERES TOLD THAT HE COULD NOT SEE THE PRISONER THAT DAY BUT WOULD HAVE TO RETURN ANOTHER TIME WITH AN OFFICIAL INTERPRETER FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THE GUARDS SEEMED TO WANT TO START AN ARGUMENT AND THAT SECURITY

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CONDITIONS WITHIN THE PRISON WERE MARKEDLY TIGHTER THAN HIS LAST VISIT THERE IN FEBRUARY 1977. HE ADDED THAT A NEW AND TOUGHER PRISON DIRECTOR PARTIALLY EXPLAINED THE GREATER SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.

5. A THIRD FRENCH CITIZEN WAS ARRESTED JANUARY 1977 AND TAKEN TO A REEDUCATION CAMP IN VIENGSAI, ACCORDING TO DESCRIERES. ALTHOUGH HIS FATHER IS FRENCH AND HIS MOTHER LAO, THIS PRISONER LIVED HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN LAOS AND THE LPDR DOES NOT RECOGNIZE HIM AS A FRENCH CITIZEN. DESCRIERS TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE LAO HAVE OFTEN ACCUSED THE FRENCH OF CAPRICIOUSLY GRANTING FRENCH NATIONALITY TO LAO CITIZENS TO HELP THEM LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

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